



**Emery County
Trail's Committee
May 5, 2026 8:00 AM**

Attendance: Terri Bennett, Brett White, Josh White, Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell, Julie Janus, Ed Geary, Wayne Luddington, Nicole Nielsen, Jordan Leonard, Brad Walker

Welcome Chairman: Terri Bennett

1. Approval of Minutes: April 2026 Motion to approve the minutes made by Brett, seconded by Don. **Motion passed.**

2. Committee Members:

- **Josh and Brett White-** Josh reported a great Dirt Bike Rally, they had a great turn out with 400 machines, a couple minor injuries and a great time with great feedback. They gave away a dirt bike, spent a lot of time spreading trail advocacy education, and are preparing to send out a post-event survey. Brett included that there were about 14 guided trails, 45 guides, and a huge trail system to spread out on. They estimate around ½ -¾ go out on guided rides as opposed to those who go out on their own. Their visitor demographics included 52% from out of state, participants from 10 different states and some from Canada. Some of the visitors went on to register for the Fall UTV Rally.
- **Andy Gordon-** Andy was not present, but AnnDee Mead shared the great job that he and his team did with the Watermelon Crawl. They did a great job at getting people into local businesses and communicating with those businesses. Everything she heard/saw from the event was positive.
- **Mike Cologie-**
- **Les Wilberg-** Les was unable to make it to the last work day and referred the report to Don. Les brought up potential dates for George's Draw and discussion followed, the decision was made to set Tuesday the 12th for that project. Discussion on the road going up to Lone Warrior and its current condition.
- **Rod Player-** Rod brought up a discussion point about helping different user groups know which trails they should and shouldn't be on, using horses damaging wet bike trails as the example. He also mentioned that motorized vehicles will tear up bike trails. Discussion on the severity of the issue and where it is or could be a problem. Discussion on how to get the messaging out and being proactive on the issue.
- **Don Bennett-** Don reported working on the Butterfly Draw and being able to get the work done before the Watermelon Crawl which event organizers were grateful for. This work project was interrupted by a quick search and rescue effort due to the snowstorm. Jim explained the search and rescue endeavor. They also got delayed on I70 due to some accidents and were able to help some people having trouble. Don reported working with the BLM and State Crew to do some work on Moore Canyon on the 23rd. There have been a couple big groups using that area and the equestrian campground that was worked on. They went up and

spent some time for the site stewardship program at Sid's Mountain and discussed the trail getting there. They also did some mountain trail cleaning up Tie Fork, Gentry Hollow and Wild Cattle Trail, and Horse Canyon. They also did Mary's Lake to Pete's Hole as well as Black Canyon area. Jaydon added to the report on the Moore Canyon project, having packed in and knocked down some ledges and broke down some boulders. They considered a reroute for one area which may be an option for the future. Now that they have the strategy down it may be something they could apply to Sid's Mountain and he will be working toward that, maybe next year. He also elaborated on the SHPO Site Stewardship Program and how that works with historic sites and the BLM to protect those sites. Discussion on hiking tendencies around some of the areas discussed so far.

- **Terri Bennett-** Terri reported on the MECCA Festival last weekend. They had 53 registered participants, kids got to eat and ride for free and they had a lot of kids, a lot of the kids went on some pretty big rides. They really enjoy using the Buckhorn RV park. They teamed up with Altitude Cycle in Price and put on strider bike races for the little kids with prizes and a bike giveaway. This was a highlight of the festival that will hopefully continue and was successful in introducing MECCA to the community. On Saturday they had four guided rides and they used 6 different vendors throughout the county. They are jumping into bicycle rodeos at the elementaries around the county which will keep them busy. Discussion on the new Utah laws regarding electric scooters and bikes that should start being enforced very soon. She also mentioned the work day they did with the festival up on Little's Creek. They have another trail work day planned on June 6 with the Carbon Composite Mountain Bike Team. Discussion on different techniques for compacting bike trails.
- **Steven Jeffery-** Julie filled in for Steven. She recently attended the Office of Outdoor Rec trail training in Vernal that she said was well worth the time. They just held the Pump-a-thon last week, their turnout was a little bit down from last year but they still had a really great event with some locals. They had a competition day and a stewardship day with 18-20 volunteers working up Grime's Wash. She mentioned that the road in that area was getting pretty rough again and could be a good area for improvement. Discussion on the boulders in the area and how they could be mitigated. Discussion on the new parking lot and campground usage, as well as the potential for turning some of the old roads in that area into bike trails.

3. Discuss Reports of the Following:

a. BLM- Jaydon provided an update on the Cliff Dwellers Airstrip, it ended being pushed off till a later date hopefully this fall. They're going to use a grader there. Brett provided some input from other pilots on what kind of improvements would be ideal for the airstrip. He also brought up Keg Knoll, the BLM released a document to designate the airstrip down in the San Rafael Desert near 5 Hole Arch. They have been getting a lot of protests as a result so the final outcome right now is unsure, but the document has been released. Jaydon shared a project on the Orange Trail near Temple Mountain. They put in a fence and a 37" gate to manage the larger vehicles and off roading that was occurring. There have been some improvements down at the Buckhorn recently including day parking and road work, they also need to work on some fencing in that area. Les asked about Furniture Draw which will be formalized into a better trail head. They will also be doing some work up at the top of Buckhorn where the Green River cutoff road meets. There has been a lot of off roading and donuts, they will be fencing off a corner for parking but try to contain the area a bit as well as working on building some day parking for Little Holes. Bell View Flats will also be getting some parking enhancements. The Price field office recently lost a couple employees due to the deferred resignation/early buyout offers, including 2 rec planners. The Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry has been closed, the rest of the monument remains open while they work on their new buildings. The visitor center and the trails are still open and available for visitors, the buildings themselves are closed. They hope to be done by September. The 250 celebration at the Wedge has been moved to McKoy Flats. The Wedge project planning is still moving forward and they hope to begin in September. The RMPA amendments should be getting published around the end of May. Discussion on public comments and the golf course sale in Ferron. Jaydon brought up questions about Ware Spring and Sagers Hole and whether horses are being ridden out there much. They are working on access for that area. He also announced that in 2 days from now they will be releasing the reassessment of the Travel Management Plans for the desert and the swell. This will be opening or limiting a large quantity of miles in both plans.

b. Forest Service AnnDee shared an update from Josh that Nuck Woodard, Ferron (to Willow), and Miller's Flat are all open, Reeder is still closed.

c. State Agencies Drew reported that Goblin Valley has been very busy this spring. They got approved for the OHV grant they applied for. They got some county road grading near the wild horse trail which was a big improvement, and they're looking forward to a busy summer.

d. Commission Jordan mentioned being happy to support this group with whatever is needed, as well as ongoing work on Cleveland reservoir and some access issues.

e. Travel Bureau and Public Lands

AnnDee Mead: AnnDee shared that the office received the OHV and RTP funding for the signage crew project. They carried out interviews last week and will get approved in commission today and be able to get started on the project. Thank you to everyone who helped on the committee for the trails grant, that grant will be progressing as planned. She also shared updates from the latest tourism business coalition. They have been getting together once a month, they are now working an itinerary for mountain bikers to improve visitor experiences and support local businesses. She also brought up a bit of an issue with some negative talk and messaging around the travel management plan that “everything is closed” and how those who know can speak up and help clear the air and spread information off the many trails and events that are still open and happening. She also shared some upcoming events and event reports. Discussion on Wilberg signage and trail reports. A paper proof for the map has arrived and will be sent off for print asap.

Jim Jennings: Jim added needing to add trail updates to the trails reports and not losing that information.

5. Adjourn.

Next Trails Meeting: June 2, 2026

Council - Terri Bennett, Brett White, Andy Gordon, Josh White, Mike Cologie,
Les Wilberg, Rod Player, Don Bennett, Steven Jeffery

Staff – Keven Jensen, Jim Jennings, AnnDee Mead, Camie Bell

